

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238384

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO CARACAS MONTEVIDEO
BOGOTA SANTIAGO FROM BUENOS AIRES OCT 29

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7941

CARACAS/BOGOTA PASS HERMAN POLLACK; DEPT PASS ALL ARA
DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 233736

1. SUMMARY: GOA REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST
IN IDEA OF USG COORDINATING OFFICE. DEVELOPMENT OF INTER-
AMERICAN MECHANISM WAS DISCUSSED AND ARGENTINA IS SKEPTICAL.
MEETING OF FULL WORKING GROUP ON MID-DECEMBER RATHER THAN
JANUARY WAS SUGGESTED. DISCUSSION ALSO FOCUSED ON RELATED
POINTS OF OAS RESTRUCTURING AND "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR
TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMB BOWDLER MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HEADED
BY UNDERSECRETARY DESMARAS TOGETHER WITH CONSULTANTS RODRIGUEZ
AND GALIGNIANA TO DISCUSS KEY ISSUES RELATED TO
WROKING GROUP PROGRESS.

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3. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISM AND
USG COORDINATING OFFICE. ARGENTINES EXPRESSED LITTLE
ENTHUSIASM FOR INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISM ALTHOUGH THEY
CONCEDED THAT OUR IDEAS AS SPELLED OUT IN TALKING POINTS
PAPER MADE SENSE AND PROMISED TO STUDY THEM. ALL WERE
SKEPTICAL ABOUT USE OF OAS AS FRAMEWORK FOR NEW
MECHANISM, ARGUING THAT OAS WAS MORIBUND. DESMARAS
WAS PARTICULARLY OUTSPOKEN IN HIS CRITICISM. THEY WERE
WILLING TO CONCEDE THAT IN A COMPLETELY RESTRUCTURED
OAS PLACING COORDINATING COMMITTEE MECHANISM MIGHT WORK,
BUT THEY WERE DOUBTFUL THAT THAT DEGREE OF
RESTRUCTURING WOULD BE ACHIEVABLE. DESMARAS SUGGESTED THE
COMPLETELY UNWORKABLE CONCEPT OF A ROTATING SECRETARIAT.
BOWDLER OBSERVED THAT WHILE SITES OF MEETING OF
COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND SUBORDINATE GROUPS MIGHT ROTATE,
SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE LOATED IN ONE PLACE. AT ONE POINT
GALIGNIANA REPORTED THAT SUB-GROUP III WAS OPPOSED TO NEW INTER-
AMERICAN MECHANIS, BUT DESMARAS NOTED THATTHIS WAS NOT
NECESSARILY THE DEFINITIVE DECISION OF THE WORKING GROUP.

4. WITH RESPECT TO DATES FOR SUB-GROUP IV MEETING AND
WORKING GROUPS, ARGENTINE LIKE IDEA OF NOVEMBER25
TO 30 SCHEDULING OF SUB-GROUP, BUT STRONLGY ADVISED
AGAINST POSTPONING MEETING OF WORKINGGROUP UNTIL JANUARY.
THEY NOTED THAT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY WERE BAD MONTHS HERE AND
IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES DUE TO SUMMER VACATION PERIOD. THEY
SUGGESTED THAT MEETING MIGHT BE HELD ABOUT DECEMBER 15.

5. ARGENTINES PRESSED HARD ON WHICH COMMITMENT THE USG WAS
PREPARED TO ASSUME REGARDING THE NEW S/T EFFORT. BOWDLER
EXPLAINED IN VERY GENERAL WAY OUT APPROACH ON FUNDING AS OUT-
LINED IN TALKING POINTS PAPER, EMPHASIZING DIFFICULTIES USG
WOULD ANTICIPATE IN FUNDING A NEW ORGANIZATION. THE ARGENTINES
SAID THEY HAD SAME DIFFICULTIES. TO SEVERAL QUERIES DIRECTED
TO DEFINING US FUNDING AND PRESSING FOR CONTINUING SUPPORT
OF BASIC SCIENCE BY PROF. RODRIGUEZ, BOWDLER EXPRSED IDEA
THAT MODALITIES STILL QUITE OPEN, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF
INCREASED FUNDING TO OAS SPECIAL FUND IS IT IS BASED ON SOUND
PROGRAMMING AND LATIN AMERICANS WILL ASSUME THEIR SHARE.

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6. BOWDLER WENT ON TO EXPALIN OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING ON
A USG COORDINATING OFFICE - AS DESCRIBED IN TALKING POINTS
PAPER. ARGENTINES EXPRESSED GREAT INTERESTIN THIS POSSIBILITY,
PARTICULARLY AS AN AVENUE FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION, AIRING
COMPLAINTS AND ENLISTING USG COOPERATION IN TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER. BOWDLER INDICATED THAT USG IS PREPARED TO REVIEW
GOVERNMENT-OWNED TECHNOLOGY TO SEE WHETHER THERE ARE PATENTS
OF INTEREST TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES OF WHICH THEY MAY

NOT BE AWARE, BUT HE CAUTIONED AGAINST HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO WHICH GALIGNIANA AGREED. HE ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST CONCLUSION THAT USG PREPARED TO DICTATE TO PRIVATE COMPANIES ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. IN THIS AREA, BOWDLER CONTINUED, INTERESTED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL HAVE TO CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, WITH USG ROLE BEING ONE OF FACILITATING CONTACT AND PERHAPS ENCOURAGING AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTIES.

7. THIS LED TO DISCUSSION OF GUIDELINES. SURPRISINGLY, ARGENTINES SEEMED TO FAVOR DRAWING UP GUIDELINES IN HEMISPHEREIC CONTEXT AND GAVE LIP SERVICE TO NEED FOR MAKING THESE BALANCED SO THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT WOULD BE ATTRACTED BY TERMS THEY COULD ACCEPT AND "RULES OF THE GAME" THAT WOULD ASSURE CONTINUED FAIR TREATMENT. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT, IN THIS AREA THE MANDATE OF THE TWO WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED AT THE WASHINGTON MFM OVERLAP. THEY WERE INCLINED TO ALLOW THAT WG ON MNC'S TO HANDLE THIS TASK WITH APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH THE WG ON S/T. GALIGNIANA, WHO PARTICIPATED IN SUB-GROUP III MEETINGS, TOOK LEAD IN PRESENTING VIEWS ON THIS ASPECT.

8. COMMENT: ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT GOA HAS REALLY NOT THOUGH THROUGH A COORDINATED POSITION ON S/T WORKING GROUP. THE ARGENTINES FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEWS. FOR EXAMPLE GALIGNIANA REPEATEDLY TOOK A HARD LINE ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, SUPPORTING LAWS LIKE ARGENTINA'S ON CONTROL OF TECHNOLOGY IMPORTATION AND URGING US TO DEFINE ITS FUNDING LEVEL. RODRIGUEZ WAS PUSHING TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR BASIC SCIENCE AND OAS MULTINATIONAL PROGRAM. HOWEVER THEY WERE QUITE RECEPTIVE TO OUR IDEAS AND OPEN IN EXPRESSING VIEWS THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY QUITE INTERESTED IN USG COORDINATING OFFICE MECHANISM BUT SKEPTICAL ABOUT INTER-AMERICAN MECHANISM, BUT WILLING TO EXPLORE IT FURTHER.

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